

*Main Office  
400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6358 (Fax)*



*Post Office Box 600  
200 West Forsyth Street, Room 700  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/232-2682  
904/232-2620 (Fax)*

*2110 First Street, Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
941/461-2200  
941/461-2219 (fax)*

*U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida*

*80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407/648-7500  
407/648/7643 (Fax)*

**Reply to: Tampa, FL**

Tuesday - April 16, 2002

**FORMER SARASOTA POLICE OFFICER  
NAMED IN CRIMINAL COMPLAINT ON DRUG  
AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE CHARGES**

Tampa - Former Sarasota Police Officer Alberto H. Gutierrez, Jr., age 29, turned himself into the U.S. Marshals Service today after a criminal complaint was filed in federal court this week charging GUTIERREZ with distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and obstruction of justice.

According to the complaint, Gutierrez, who at the time was a Sarasota Police officer, was assigned to investigate the theft of a female's vehicle on July 14, 2000. The complaint states that Gutierrez developed a physical (sexual) relationship with the woman between July and September of 2000. During the relationship, the complaint says, Gutierrez supplied her with "crack" cocaine in exchange for sex. The complaint also alleges that during the federal government's investigation of this matter Gutierrez attempted to interfere with the woman's cooperation with federal authorities.

A complaint is merely an accusation that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

This case was investigated the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey J. Del Fuoco.